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League of Red Cross Societies

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The League of Red Cross Societies is an international organization grouping together, for their peace-time activities, the National Societies, of the following countries : ALBANIA, ARGENTINA, AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, BELGIUM, BOLIVIA, BRAZIL, BULGARIA, CANADA, CHILI, CHINA, COLOMBIA COSTA RICA, CUBA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, DANZIG, DENMARK, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, ECUADOR, EGYPT, ESTONIA, FINLAND, FRANCE, GERMANY, GREAT BRITAIN, GREECE, GUATEMALA, HUNGARY, ICELAND, INDIA, ITALY, JAPAN, LATVIA, LITHUANIA, LUXEMBURG, MEXICO, NETHERLANDS, NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES, NEW ZEALAND, NORWAY, PANAMA, PARAGUAY, PERSIA, PERU, POLAND, PORTUGAL, ROUMANIA, SALVADOR, SIAM, SOUTH AFRICA, SPAIN, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, TURKEY, UNITED STATES, URUGUAY, VENEZUELA, YUGOSLAVIA.

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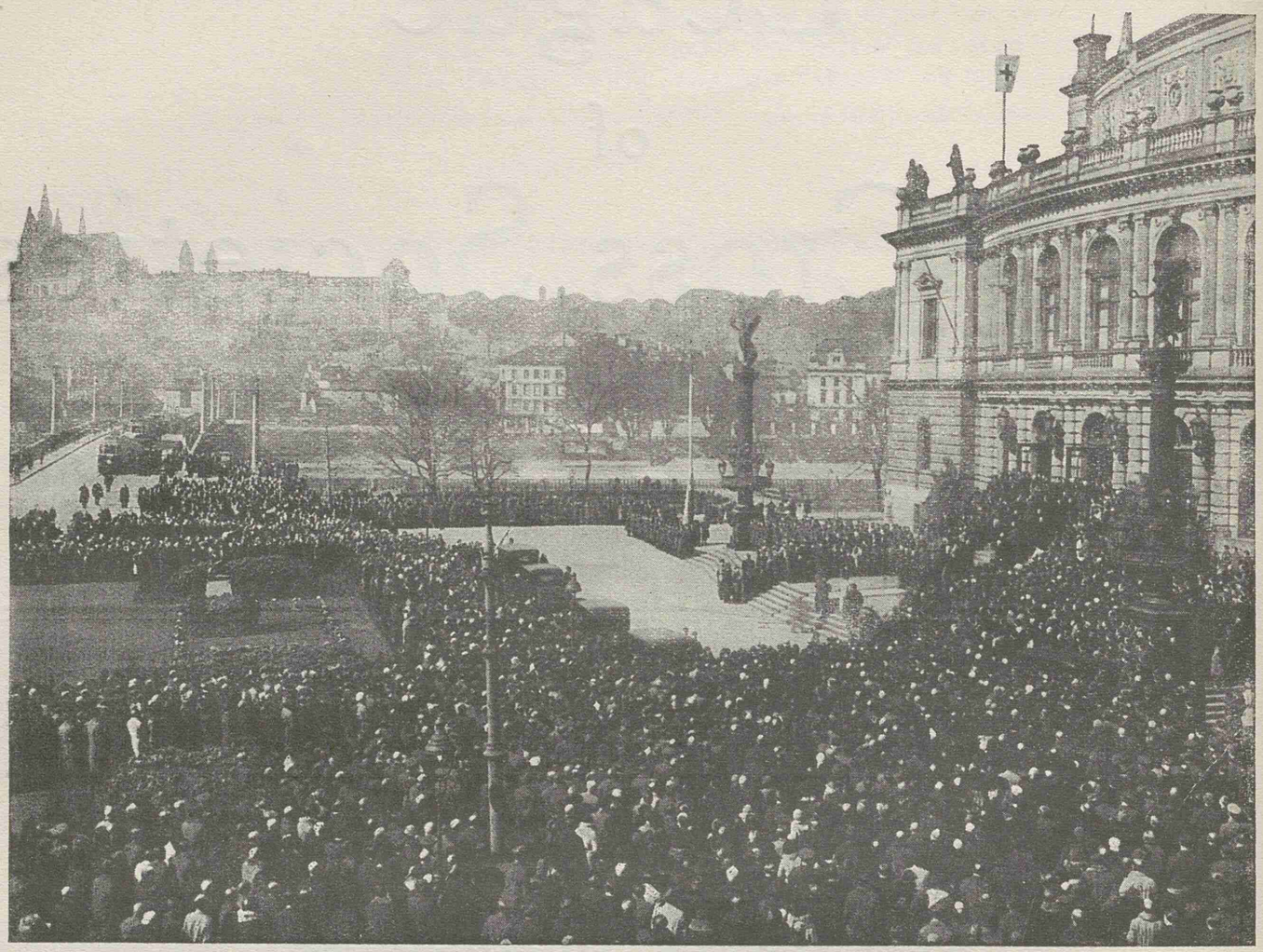

AFTER THE PROCLAMATION OF THE RED CROSS TRUCE IN PRAGUE.

The Easter Truce

An idea, if it is to prevail, if it is to capture the imagination of the people, must be embodied in some concrete form. Its symbolism must speak directly to the heart; therefore when Dr Alice Masarykova, the President of the Czechoslovak Red Cross, wanted to place the ideals for which the Red Cross stands before her countrymen, she cast her mind back to the old *Treuga Dei* of mediæval times. She took the tradition of the "Truce of God" and, adapting it to her own time and her own country, instituted the Red Cross Truce in Czechoslovakia.

That was in 1921. Again at Easter this year, as every year since that first proclamation, the Speaker of the Czechoslovak Parliament will pronounce before the President of the Republic, the Government and the élite of the nation assembled, the solemn words proclaiming the Truce.

"The Red Cross Truce has begun.
"The Red Cross Truce shall be maintained."

Cannon will thunder, village bells will ring throughout the land, silence will fall for two minutes in memory of the nation's illustrious dead and for three days following the country will attempt to forget its animosities and to transcend the barriers of race, creeds and politics.

The original *Treuga Dei* proclaimed for the first time in 1027 at the synod of Elne in the Pyrenees, not far from Perpignan, strictly prohibited every act of private warfare from noon on Saturday till prime on Monday. It was an attempt on the part of the Church to mitigate the evils of a feudal society divided into small and violently antagonistic units, each living by right of the sword. It had been preceded by various forms of *Pax ecclesiæ* or *Pax Dei* designed to protect the Church, clerics, pilgrims, merchants, women and peasants against the predatory activities of feudal adventurers.

The custom soon spread over France and the Truce was extended to cover not only Wednesday evening till Monday morning of every week,

but also Lent, Advent, and the three great feasts and vigils of the Virgin Mary, those of the Apostles and some other saints. It was observed later with varying consistency in Italy, Flanders and the Empire, and in its extended form scarcely a quarter of the year was left for fighting.

To-day in Czechoslovakia the Red Cross Truce covers the Easter Festival. For a period of three days, the waters of party strife and journalistic acrimony are stilled and the country tries to forget national and international divisions. An active effort is made to promote unity within the nation and good will beyond its frontiers. Newspapers suspend all controversies and replace them by articles on national and international understanding. The Red Cross itself chooses some central theme as a focus for the activities of the Truce and distributes articles and propaganda material for publication. Last year the theme chosen was "Gratitude to Old People" and special efforts were made to extend the work of the Red Cross among the aged. The Junior Red Cross played a prominent part both in the celebrations throughout the country and in practical help for old people and old people's homes. This year the theme for the truce is "Cleanliness Everywhere and in All Things".

The Junior Red Cross members in the schools began some months ago drawing up their programmes for "Cleanliness Week" from April 5th to 9th, and for the celebration of the Truce.

Very appropriately the Truce this year follows close upon the Central European Red Cross Conference which meets at Prague on April 12th and 13th, so that those delegates who can remain till April 15th will have the opportunity of observing the moving national ceremonies with which the Red Cross Truce is ushered in.

The XIVth international Red Cross Conference recommended in 1930 that a Commission should be appointed to study the working of the Truce in Czechoslovakia. The Commission has since been constituted and will present a report at the XVth International Red Cross Conference at Tokyo in 1934 with some account of the possibility of introducing the Truce into other countries.

It is certain that not only those who attend the Prague Conference, but friends and members of the Red Cross throughout the world will watch with warm sympathy this endeavour to make Red Cross ideals a living force. They will be inspired by it to intensify their own efforts in the service of those ideals each in his own land.

Ernest J. Swift

The Neunkirchen Disaster

The ravages caused by the bursting of a gas container which, on February 10th last, destroyed a whole quarter of the town of Neunkirchen (Saar) were so appalling that, even today, no accurate picture of their extent can be formed. So violent was the explosion that the huge lid of the container was projected to a distance of two miles. Pieces of broken metal fell in showers on the houses for several hundreds of yards around, reducing them to wreckage, while a thick layer of débris and broken glass littered the streets. People fled in panic to the shelter of the surrounding woods, leaving all their belongings behind them. Several persons were injured by falling bricks or glass from the shattered windows. Men and women rushed to and fro frantically searching for lost children or relatives.

The fire brigade and German Red Cross relief squads lost no time in coming to the aid of the victims. Within an hour of the explosion, two hundred first-aid men were busily engaged in picking up the injured and shepherding the unharmed to safety. They were soon joined by relief squads from neighbouring towns and villages, so that, two hours later, six hundred men were on the spot.

During the first night, 60 dead and 181 injured were extricated from the ruins and rushed to hospital. The Red Cross men, whose courage, devotion and discipline throughout the whole operation were beyond praise took an active part in searching for the victims, removing them from the danger area and finding shelter for the survivors.

No less admirable was the rôle played by the National Union of German Red Cross Women, which placed large detachments of voluntary aids at the disposal of the rescuers, provided food and shelter for the homeless and restored lost children to their anxious parents. It organized a canteen, which was kept open at all hours to provide meals for the survivors of the catastrophe, and for the police, firemen and first-aid workers engaged in the relief operations—in all 3,000 persons. Night and day, sixty voluntary aids from the Union worked untiringly in the canteens, hospitals, institutions and schools, dispensing help and comfort to the suffering and bereaved. Several families, including 31 children, were temporarily housed in the Union's home for the aged, and fifty more children were accommodated in its rest homes. The Union also procured clothing and linen for those needing them.

It is anticipated that the local Red Cross committees will be required to take care of large numbers of the stricken population for some time to come. The Union of Red Cross Women is proposing to enlarge its workers' settlement (at present composed of 106 houses) in Neunkirchen and to instal therein the families whose homes were wrecked by the explosion. For this scheme, it is receiving the monetary support of German Red Cross headquarters and certain of the regional committees.

Messages of sympathy were received by the German Red Cross from sister Societies in Belgium and Spain. The French Red Cross instructed its local committees to hold themselves in readiness to intervene in the event of their assistance being required.

Florence Nightingale Foundation

The League Secretariat has been notified of the constitution of a further national committee in Belgium. The Belgian Committee is composed of prominent members of several different organizations, viz., the Belgian Red Cross, the National Federation of Belgian Nurses, the Union of Professional Nurses of La Louvière, the "Nurses' Family", the Edith Cavell-Marie Depage School, the Nurses' Union of Antwerp Province, and the Federation of Nursing Schools. The chairman is Mlle. Hellemans, president of the National Federation of Belgian Nurses, and the Secretary, Mlle. Kaeckenbeeck, director of the Belgian Red Cross Nursing Service. Among the members may be found such well-known names as those of Mme. Paul Hymans and Baroness Carton de Wiart.

The National Council of Nurses of Great Britain reports that, through its affiliated organizations, £1,625.2.8. has been subscribed for scholarships. This makes a total of £2,097 guaranteed by the nurses of Great Britain.

The Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee of France has guaranteed a scholarship for the session 1933-34.

The Trained Nurses' Association of India expresses its full sympathy with the scheme and is prepared to raise funds for the Foundation when constituted.

The Luxemburg Red Cross and the National League of Nurses have jointly agreed to participate in the Foundation. They have already subscribed 3,000 French francs and hope to be able to make an additional contribution in the near future.

America's New President

On March the fourth, a new President of the United States took office, which meant a new President for the American Red Cross. By established custom, the Red Cross enjoys the prestige of having the nation's Chief Executive at its head. This dates back to the time of President Taft. In 1904, Mr. Taft, then Secretary of War, worked with Miss Mabel T. Boardman in reorganizing the Society on its modern lines, as laid down in the charter passed by Congress and approved on January 5, 1905. Mr. Taft was the first President of the Society under this charter. When he passed from the cabinet into the Presidency, he continued as President of the Red Cross, being succeeded in this position by Presidents Wilson, Harding, Coolidge and Hoover. President Roosevelt is an old friend of the Red Cross and is well acquainted with the relief work which it is carrying on in this crisis.

This is not a merely honorary position that the President takes. He is a great deal more than a mere patron. President Wilson took an active part in the war work of the Society, while Mr. Coolidge, as President of the American Red Cross personally welcomed the delegates to the Second Pan-American Red Cross Conference at Washington in 1926. Mr. Hoover has been a very active President. His connection with the Red Cross became prominent in the great Mississippi flood of six years ago, when he was Secretary of Commerce. As President he consulted often and intimately with Chairman John Barton Payne regarding the drought crisis of 1930, unemployment relief and the distribution of Government owned wheat and cotton.

Armenian Refugees Thank Juniors

The Director of the Bulgarian Junior Red Cross has forwarded to the League Secretariat the translation of a letter received from a group of Armenian refugees expressing appreciation of the gifts of clothing sent them by the Juniors of Italy and Spain, at the time of their repatriation from Bulgaria to the Erivan Republic. The letter is addressed to the Secretary-General of the League:

"On leaving Bulgaria for our native country, we were presented with warm garments sent by the Juniors of several countries for distribution to our children by the Bulgarian Red Cross at Bourgas. These gifts must have meant the sacrifice of much time and effort on the part of the noble children enrolled under the Red Cross banner.

"We cannot describe to you the delight of our children on receiving this generous attention from their far-away comrades. Apart from the material satisfaction of receiving assistance at such a critical moment, it is a joy to them to think that the youth of the world has set itself the high-minded task of mitigating suffering and sowing the seeds of peace and international brotherhood. Our heartfelt gratitude to them all! Neither we nor our children will ever forget their kindness".

A Teacher Sums up Junior Red Cross

This is how one German teacher in Silesia sums up the advantages of introducing the Junior Red Cross and interschool correspondence into the work of the school:

1) The Junior Red Cross gives stimulus and joy.

2) Pleasure in the work and love for it (letters and handwork), voluntary exchange of news, thoughts and feelings, strengthen the powers of expression and the awareness of the children.

3) Maps and pictures broaden their outlook.

4) The Junior Red Cross movement is absolutely free from political influence.

5) The corporate spirit is unconsciously strengthened even outside the class itself.

6) Parents and children are keenly interested in the work.

7) Attention is kept in suspense until the letter arrives.

Earthquake in Japan

The recent earthquake and tidal wave which smote the north-east coast of Japan caused grave material damage and appalling casualties estimated at 1,535 dead, 984 missing and 338 injured. Many hundreds of buildings were demolished and 500 fishing boats wrecked.

The International Red Cross Committee and the League of Red Cross Societies immediately cabled an offer of help, but the reply intimated that the Society was able to cope with the situation unaided.

Nursing Advisory Committee

A meeting of the Nursing Advisory Committee has been called for June 30th next at League headquarters. This convocation is in accordance with a resolution passed by the Board of Governors last year, authorizing the Secretariat to take advantage of the meeting of the International Council of Nurses in Paris next July to invite a certain number of Red Cross nursing experts to meet at the League's offices and make proposals in regard to the subjects incorporated in the agenda of the XVth International Conference at Tokyo.

ARGENTINA

Propaganda Seals

As from December 24th last, the Ministry of Public Works has authorized the sale to the public by the personnel of its financial services of special seals, the revenue from which will be turned over to the Red Cross for the support of its institutions. The seals are of different values and are affixed to receipts side by side with the fiscal receipt stamp.

AUSTRALIA

Younger Sets Raise Funds

Among the many effective methods devised by the Red Cross Younger Sets for raising funds is the periodical organization of social events, such as soirées and balls. Last year they held a ''Lilac Ball'', so called to indicate the colour scheme of the decorations and dresses. This scheme found expression in hoops of wistaria hung round the walls and suspended from the lights, hollyhocks covering a lattice near the orchestra, and mauve-shaded tulips in bowls on each table.

Girls in period frocks acted as hostesses and bunches of violets were sold to the guests by girls similarly arrayed. One of the bunches contained a lucky number, for which a prize was offered. Another prize was awarded for the most attractively decorated table. The Red Cross Younger Set ballet performed a minuet during the evening and exhibition dances were given by two professionals.

As a result of this manifestation, approximately £100 was realized.

A few days later, the annual banquet of the Younger Set was held, when a cheque representing the proceeds of their efforts for the preceding six months was presented to the chairman of the Red Cross. In addition to some five hundred girls, the guests included the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Sydney and many prominent citizens.

Besides the group in Sydney, Younger Sets have been organized by sixteen of the Red Cross local branches.

BELGIUM

Industrial First Aid

The Belgian Red Cross has now placed on the market, at the price of 300 Belgian francs, a new type of first-aid chest specially designed for use in factories and electrical works.

For Victims of the Cold

The spells of arctic weather in January and February of this year were not calculated to improve the lot of the homeless and destitute, whose numbers have increased to an appalling extent since the economic depression rendered employment scarce and money still scarcer. Prompt to realize this, the Belgian Red Cross at once proceeded to organize what were described as ''Emergency Relief Posts for Victims of the Cold''.

These posts assumed many guises, although the general conception was the same: a large, well-heated hall, accessible to any who cared to enter, and a canteen where bowls of soup, broth or coffee were dispensed to all and sundry without any questions being asked.

Within six hours of the idea having taken birth, the first canteens were organized and thrown open to the public. Before 24 hours had elapsed, fifteen of them had been set up in the Brussels area. Men and women members of the Red Cross first-aid detachments volunteered for the work of preparing and distributing hot beverages, washing dishes and keeping the premises clean. During the first four days, 120,000 bowls of soup or coffee were served.

As a complement to this activity, the Red Cross organized free distributions of coal to victims of the crisis. In certain districts, the unemployed were presented with two scuttles of coal per family at the Red Cross depôts, on showing their identity cards. When the stock was exhausted, vouchers were issued enabling the holders to obtain coal direct from coal-merchants indicated to them by the Red Cross.

One of the most valuable results of this initiative was that it served as an example which other private and official agencies lost no time in following.

BULGARIA

Nurses' Meeting

The general assembly of the Association of Bulgarian Nurses, held in Sofia on January 27th and 28th last, brought together large numbers of nurses from the capital and the provinces. Several interesting recommendations were passed, among them being the following:

1) To urge the National Health Office to make provision for the nomination of a nursing inspector and to recognize the constitution of the Association of Bulgarian Nurses.

2) To insist that, when calculating the years of service of nurses with a view to the granting of a pension, war service should be counted double as in the case of soldiers, independently of whether they served with the State or with the Red Cross.

3) To request the Red Cross to grant to all nurses, whether employed by the Red Cross or not, the privilege of free treatment at the Red Cross hospital.

4) To request the railway authorities to grant a reduction of 50 per cent on all tickets to certificated nurses of Bulgarian nationality.

5) To appeal to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for a subvention enabling the Association of Bulgarian nurses to send delegates to the next Congress of the International Council of Nurses in Paris and Brussels.

COLOMBIA

Public Health Nursing

It was in 1924 that the Colombian Red Cross, in collaboration with the League of Red Cross Societies and with the assistance of a Belgian nurse, took the initiative in the organization of maternity and child welfare centres in Bogota. A year ago the National Department of Health, with the assistance of the Rockefeller Foundation and of two American nurses, established a school for the training of public health nurses. Women of a good general education were selected and an effort was made to provide them with an elementary knowledge of the basic sciences, the principles and practices of nursing and the elements of Public Health.

The graduates of this school, numbering thirty-six, have formed a ''Centro Cultural de Enfermeras''. The Red Cross nurses, the school, and tuberculosis nurses of the State and Municipal health departments are also members of this Centre. Meetings are held weekly and conferences given by doctors and nurses.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Red Cross Truce

The Czechoslovak Red Cross has selected as theme for its Truce this year : « *Cleanliness Everywhere and in all Things*. The attention of the public will be directed to the importance of purity of body and mind in public and private life. Eminent writers and specialists have been invited to contribute articles on this subject and to give broadcast talks.

Just before Easter, which is the time chosen for the proclamation of the Truce, a ''Cleanliness Week'' will be organized, during which the Red Cross will collaborate with the public road-cleaning services.

On April 14th and 15th, Prague will be, for the third year in succession, the meeting-place of the international commission charged by the XIVth International Red Cross Conference with studying the organization of the Czechoslovak Red Cross Truce and drawing up a report thereon for submission to the XVth International Conference next year.

FINLAND

Nursing Outposts

The work of the nurse in the cottage hospitals of the Finnish Red Cross, the seventh of which has just been inaugurated, is both varied and interesting. Not only does she care for the in-patients and assist the doctor with the medical and public health consultations given at the centre, but she also nurses patients in their homes and gives emergency treatment, when needed, in telephonic consultation with the doctor. She is also responsible for follow-up work and school hygiene.

If her life is an active one, it is at the same time lonely. The cottage hospital at Juntusranta, for example, is 50 kilometers distant from the nearest village and, in the absence of any road, must be reached in summer by boat and in winter across the ice. The region served by the nurse covers an area of 1,342 square kilometers and comprises 2,000 inhabitants.

The nurse holds six baskets, containing material for the care of the sick, at the disposal of persons wishing to borrow them. The greater part of the clothing and linen thus lent is provided by women volunteers, who hold regular sewing meetings at the Red Cross work-room attached to the hospital. During the winter months, the nurse is responsible for the distribution of comforts to needy families.

FRANCE

Central Nursing Bureau

The fact that the Prague Conference is proposing to examine methods of establishing collaboration between Red Cross nursing services and government departments concerned with nursing matters, lends peculiar interest to the annual report just issued by the Central Nursing Bureau of the French Ministry of Public Health.

This Report shows the extent and importance which may be attained by a bureau of this kind when placed under the guidance of competent nurses. A brief summary of the activities of the Board last year will give a better idea of its utility than any lengthy account.

These activities included:

The organization of 17 meetings of the '' Conseil de Perfectionnement'' of the nursing schools and of the ''Conseil de Perfectionnement'' of the social service schools.

The organization, in Paris and the provinces, of 63 State examinations leading to the award of 1,117 diplomas: 679 to hospital nurses, 430 to public health nurses and 8 to blind masseurs.

The drafting of 90 orders and decrees relating to State examinations, the granting of State diplomas, the syllabus and notation of the State examination leading to the State diploma in social work, the administrative recognition of schools of nursing, State subventions to schools, etc.

The filling in and despatch of 2,602 State diplomas.

The organization of several meetings of directresses of nursing and social work schools with a view to establishing collaboration, in any one town, between visiting nurses attached to the antivenereal service and those engaged in anti-tuberculosis and child welfare work.

The drafting of programmes for post-graduate courses.

The filing of applications for employment and vacancies, thanks to which situations were found last year for 197 nurses.

The compilation of statistics relating to the activities of public health nurses and the nursing staffs of civilian hospitals.

The study of legal questions relating to nursing.

The elaboration of a programme of visits to hospitals and social institutions in connexion with the Social Work Congress at Frankfort in July 1932.

Some idea of the immense volume of work handled by the Central Nursing Bureau may be gleaned from the fact that, during 1932, it despatched 16,815 letters.

Russian Child Week

The Children's Relief Committee of the Russian Red Cross (old organization) in Paris held its eleventh annual ''Week'' from February 19th to 26th, 1933. Of the 93,000 francs received by the Committee last year, 50,000 were collected during the ''Week''. The greater part of this sum was devoted to the upkeep of the Day Nursery maintained by the Committee at Billancourt (an industrial suburb of Paris, where large numbers of Russian refugees are employed). The remainder was expended on providing meals for undernourished Russian children, paying school fees and organizing a holiday camp. In view of the additional need for its services occasioned by the widespread unemployment among the Russian colony in Paris, the Committee is hoping that the response to this year's appeal will be correspondingly greater.

FRENCH COLONIES

Child Welfare in Madagascar

Of all the branches of the French Red Cross in the colonies, none perhaps is more active than that in Madagascar, where the Union of French Women (U. F. F.) has for years past been making laudable efforts to combat disease and infant mortality.

Madagascar has three million inhabitants. The centre of the island is occupied by high, fertile valleys and table-lands, but the regions near the sea are,

for the most part, damp and unhealthy, and there is plenty of scope for Red Cross effort. The U. F. F. is doing valuable work in a number of localities.

The baby clinic at Tananarive, the capital of the island, gave 100,000 consultations last year, while the hospital attached thereto provided 10,769 days of treatment. The milk centre distributed milk to a value of 40,596 francs during the same period, which means that hundreds of infants were provided by the Red Cross with the food which their mothers were too poor to give them.

European and native ladies meet twice monthly at the Red Cross work-room in Tananarive for the purpose of knitting and sewing garments for needy children, 7,000 of whom were clothed during the year 1931-32.

Similar activities are being undertaken by the local committees at Arivonimamo, Miarinarivo, Soavinandriana, Antisirabé, Ambositra, Fianarantsoa, Mananjary and Tamatave.

In the hope of attracting larger numbers of native mothers to the Red Cross, the annual children's festival, organized for the first time in 1898 by General Gallieni, has been revived by the present Governor-General of the island, prizes being awarded to the bonniest children. Nearly 2,500 children took part in the festival last year, and an even larger attendance is anticipated in 1933.

GERMANY

First Aid for Skiers

During the winter months, the mountains of the Taunus are a popular playground for winter sports enthusiasts, and minor accidents are of frequent occurrence. Some days, as many as a hundred mishaps are registered.

Fortunately for these victims of the vagaries of ice and snow, Red Cross first-aid detachments are at hand to rescue them from their plight. At several points in the Taunus region, first-aid posts with telephones have been set up to which the injured are carried, pending their transfer by ambulance-sleds to the valley, where they are met by motor-ambulances. At week-ends and during sports meetings, when visitors are particularly numerous, the first-aid detachments organize mobile patrols composed of expert skiers specially trained for this work.

The German Red Cross first-aid services are being constantly developed to cope with the new needs arising out of the growing popularity of sport.

Photographic Competition

An initiative of an unusual character has just been organized by the German Red Cross for members of Junior groups affiliated to first-aid detachments.

Competitors are required to submit photographs taken by themselves and depicting some branch of activity of the group, either in collaboration with the first-aid detachment or independently. The last date for sending in entries is May 30th. Prizes will be awarded for the three best photographs. The German Red Cross reserves the right to make use of any of the prints for propaganda purposes.

GREAT BRITAIN

Enrolment Campaign

The British Red Cross Society issued in March a special number of its Quarterly Review designed to assist organizers in their plans for this year's Red Cross Day. The Day is celebrated annually on May 12th, the anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth.

A chapter entitled "Hints to Organizers" contains a number of suggestions for securing publicity, among which the following are of particular interest:

The proprietors and editors of all local newspapers should be interviewed and progress of the movement given to the papers as items of news interest; also, requests for additional flag sellers should be inserted.

Business establishments and local institutions should be asked to release members of their staff to sell flags on May 12th.

Proprietors or managers of houses of entertainment should be asked to throw the date of the Flag Day on the screen, to allow a speaker in the interval of a performance, and to permit flags to be sold in the building.

(It should be explained, for the benefit of those unacquainted with British custom in such matters, that public appeals for charitable objects are almost invariably accompanied by the sale of tiny, button-hole flags. Young women patrol the public thoroughfares, carrying small trays slung from their shoulders, and press their wares on the passers-by. This system was found particularly effective during the war days and has been maintained ever since, with excellent results.)

On another page is a series of notes for lecturers, divided into seven main chapters: I. The Origin of the Red Cross; II. The League of Red Cross Societies; III. History of the British Red Cross Society; IV. Organization of the British Red Cross Society; VI. The Junior Red Cross; VII. The Red Cross in the Empire.

A page of photographs, headed "Ways and Means", depicts some of the methods employed last year for raising funds. Quite the simplest, and not the least effective, of these was the placing of a large square of white cloth on the country wayside, next to a board bearing the words: "Cyclists, please throw a copper on to the sheet". A Red Cross flag was affixed to a post and a nurse in indoor uniform mounted guard over this improvised "stand".

An innovation this year is the use of pointers or book-markers, printed over with a few cogent facts relating to the Red Cross, in lieu of receipt forms for acknowledging contributions.

Among the many bright slogans suggested for the use of organizers are the following: "Help us to Help", "Help the Red Cross Today—You may need its Help Tomorrow", "The Red Cross is the Flag of Service to Suffering—Help to keep the Flag Flying", "Wanted: Voluntary Workers for Health and Service".

Course in Tropical Hygiene

The British Red Cross Society's bi-annual course in Tropical Hygiene will open in London on April 21st next. Consisting of seven lectures and demonstrations, the course will cover such questions as food, clothing, and medical and sanitary precautions for health in hot climates. The examination for the Society's certificate in Tropical Hygiene will be held on May 10th.

INDIA

Child Welfare

The Lady Irwin Challenge Cup for the best Baby Week celebration was awarded last year to the Attock District Branch of the Indian Red Cross Society. Attock is a district which offers natural obstacles to progress since the country is intersected by deep rivers and nullahs, while the inhabitants are mainly Moslems with *purdah* restrictions on the women.

The Baby Week was held to coincide with the annual Durbar, so that many people from the district were present at headquarters and able to visit the Exhibition. Special efforts were made to interest the better class people. In her report, Mrs. Cuthbert King, the President of the branch, observed that the idea that maternity and child welfare are intended mainly for the poorer classes is a fallacious one. It is the middle class, with both money and intelligence to carry out simple improvements, who must join the movement if it is to succeed.

Only those who had regularly attended the centre, or been visited by the health visitor, were allowed to compete at the Baby Show. At the prize distribution, the good points of the winners were carefully explained. On this occasion also, prizes were awarded for the result of a competition among the local *dais*, or native midwives.

JAPAN

Death of Dr. Kuwata

In December last, the Japan Red Cross had the misfortune to lose a distinguished member of its Board of Administrators, Dr. K. Kuwata, who was closely connected with the foreign operations of the Society. The League was represented at the funeral by Mr. de Gielgud, Under Secretary-General, who was in Tokyo at the time of Dr. Kuwata's death.

LATVIA

Public Health Nursing

Included in the training of all students at the Latvian Red Cross nursing school are 15 lessons on public health and 30 on the mission of the public health nurse and the technique of her work. In addition, the Red Cross holds a supplementary course in public health for nurses desirous of specializing in that branch of work. One of these courses, begun on October 15th 1932, came to an end on February 15th last, having been attended by fifteen students. The syllabus was as follows:

A. THEORY.

Organization and activities of the International Red Cross	4 hours.
The Latvian Red Cross, its organization, its activities	4 »
Dental hygiene	6 »
Examination of school-children's eyes, and sight troubles	4 »
Examination of school-children's hearing; oto-rhino-laryngology	4 »
The difficult child and mental hygiene	6 »
Accounts and book-keeping of Red Cross health centres	4 »
Workaday problems arising in health centres in villages and small towns; questions relating to the professional ethics of the nurse; international nursing organizations	15 »

B. PRACTICAL WORK.

In the health centre	1 month.
In the State infant home	1 »
In the University Dental Institute	2 weeks.
Social Work at the Social Welfare Bureau of the Ministry of Public Assistance and of the Riga municipality	1 month.
School health work (in the primary school, the forest school and the kindergarten)	1 month.

In addition to the foregoing, the students undertook investigations into the living conditions of children of unemployed being fed at the Red Cross canteens, and gave up their evenings to lessons in sewing babylinen and garments for toddlers.

NETHERLANDS

New Joint Publication

The Netherlands Red Cross has forwarded to the League Secretariat the first number of the new publication which it is now issuing jointly with the Orange Cross — an organization concerned with different phases of first aid and relief activities. The new magazine appears under the title of "De Samaritaan" and is devoted half to news and articles concerning the Red Cross and half to the affairs of the Orange Cross. The Red Cross Societies will join with the League in wishing long life and prosperity to this new publication.

PERU

Two Years of Activity

The Junior Section of the Peruvian Red Cross recently celebrated its second birthday. There are now twenty-four Junior groups in the schools of Lima and other towns, all eagerly engaged in playing the "Health Game" and learning how to make themselves useful in the event of accident or sudden illness.

The Peruvian Juniors make a great point of cleanliness and tidiness, and have learnt to take care of their mouths and teeth. Excursions and open-air games are frequently arranged for their benefit. Interschool correspondence is conducted by all the groups, and contacts have been established with many lands.

The remarkable progress achieved in so short a time by the Junior Red Cross in Peru is due to the personal efforts of the director, Dr. Antonio Aylton Pastor, whose tenacity in overcoming obstacles augurs well for the future of the movement.

POLAND

Xmas Cheer for Destitute

At the end of January last, the Warsaw Branch of the Polish Junior Red Cross called a meeting of delegates of more than fifty Junior links in the capital, who submitted reports on their Christmas activities on behalf of poor children.

The Christmas festivities represent the culminating point in the programme of the links. For weeks in advance, the Juniors busy themselves with the preparation of the Christmas tree and of gifts and dainties for distribution.

The following extract from one of the reports is more eloquent than any commentary:

"We organized a party at school which was attended by 38 guests. First of all, tea was served and then the presents and sweets were handed out to them. Each child had brought a basket which we filled with sugar, tea, bacon and flour. Their joy was wonderful to see, but ours was greater still... We shall never forget their delighted faces and can no longer look upon poverty without wanting to do all in our power to relieve it".

The president of the Warsaw municipality, who honoured the meeting with his presence, was deeply impressed by the reading of the reports. For some days afterwards, the newspapers were full of elogious articles on the Junior Red Cross.

PORTUGAL

Activities of Funchal Group

Since its formation eighteen years ago in Madeira, the Funchal Red Cross committee has been in constant progress. In addition to the services which it renders in connexion with public and sporting manifestations, the Committee maintains a model Health and First Aid Centre, to which has recently been annexed a free dental clinic. This is greatly appreciated, as the following figures for the year 1932 will show:

Attendances at the general clinic	1,548
» » dental »	3,683
Number of treatments given	1,546

The present chairman of the Funchal Committee is Dr. Alexandre da Cunha Telles, to whose guidance the Red Cross owes much of the development and influence which it has attained throughout the island.

SIAM

Annual Report

The report of the Siamese Red Cross for the fiscal year 1931/32 makes interesting and gratifying reading at a time when economies and restrictions are the order of the day in almost every country. Far from slowing down, the activities of the Society have been expanding in every direction. The senior membership is now 42,313, while the number of Juniors enrolled has risen to 101,975, an increase of 22,275 over the preceding year.

Much has been done during the year in the way of reconstructing and enlarging existing Red Cross institutions, and building fresh wings and pavilions, thanks to funds provided by generous donors. With the contribution allotted to it by the International Red Cross Committee from the Empress Shôken Fund, the Society has erected a small pavilion for tuberculosis patients at Sriraja, a seaside resort.

During the period under review, 48,374 patients were provided with medical treatment at the King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital. Treatments other than medical, i.e. surgical, electrical and dental, numbered 19,117. There are now 248 free beds in the hospital.

The school of public health nursing and Health Centre No. 1 have been removed to a spacious compound, consisting of six houses, donated by H. M. The King of Siam. Next to its public health nursing service and its work among lepers, the efforts of the Health Section are directed mainly towards the health of school-children. Several Red Cross nurses are engaged in this work. Four Red Cross members have returned from study courses abroad—one doctor and one nurse from England, and two nurses from Manila.

The activities of the Society in connexion with scientific research into methods of combating snake-bite have frequently been referred to in these pages, and the fame of the Siamese Red Cross Scientific Section is world-wide. Three papers on animal diseases were contributed by the Society to the 5th Pacific Scientific Conference in Canada, at the request of the Secretary of that meeting. As in previous years, courses of instruction were arranged for army veterinary surgeons.

During the period covered by the report, 39 Juniors were awarded Red Cross Medals of Merit for life-saving.

Distinguished visitors to Red Cross institutions in Bangkok included Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Brabant, and M. Paul Reynaud, French Minister for the Colonies.

SPAIN

New Hospital at Cordova

The Spanish Red Cross inaugurated its new hospital at Cordova on January 31st last in the presence of a gathering composed of high Government and Red Cross officials. The President of the Republic and the Prime Minister were unfortunately prevented from carrying out their intention of attending.

The new edifice, of pure Andalusian style, has been erected on a site presented to the Red Cross by the Cordova Town Council. It cost one million pesetas to construct, a further sum of 100,000 pesetas being expended on furnishings and appointments. The establishment is a model of its kind, and contains accommodation for 200 in-patients.

SWEDEN

A Practical Innovation

To facilitate the task of the provincial and local sections in compiling their annual reports, the central committee of the Swedish Red Cross has had the excellent idea of issuing printed forms to its branches for this purpose. The forms are conceived rather on the lines of a questionnaire and should result in an appreciable economy of time and labour for all concerned.

The Child for the Child

Towards the end of last year, Junior Red Cross group-leaders in the Stockholm schools were invited to meet at Red Cross headquarters to hear an account of the plight of the children in the province of Norrland. Those present were urged, in consultation with their teachers, to exhort their comrades to sacrifice a part of their pocket money during the following month for the benefit of these unfortunate children.

The response to this appeal was such that it has been possible to send the imposing sum of 6,273 Kronen to the local Red Cross committees in Norrbotten and Västerbotten for distribution among the children of unemployed in the form of nourishing food and warm clothing. Part of this sum represented the proceeds of Christmas parties organized by Juniors in the schools.

Another instance of the child's delight in service for others comes from Malmö, where the Junior section subventions a summer colony for needy and delicate children. The colony is kept open from June to September and last year provided 66 little guests with a month's holiday.

Junior Propaganda The Junior Section of the Swedish Red Cross has issued a propaganda leaflet reproducing opinions expressed by educational authorities and teachers in regard to the Junior Red Cross. Extracts are being translated by the League Secretariat and will be circulated to other national Sections. The League would welcome similar expressions of opinion received by Junior Red Cross sections in other countries.

UNITED STATES

Annual Convention The annual convention of the American Red Cross will be held in Washington from April 24th to 27th. In view of the widespread distress with which the Red Cross is at present grappling, an entire plenary session is being reserved for the discussion of volunteer activities. Relief, which is the keynote of the Convention this year, will occupy another plenary session.

Judge Payne, Chairman of the American Red Cross, has addressed an appeal to each of the 13,600 chapter and branch chairmen, urging them to attend personally or to send representatives to the Convention.

First Results of Roll Call Full results of the annual Roll Call will not be available for some time to come, but, so far as can be judged at present, the membership is expected to fall very little short of the levels attained in former and more prosperous years. Early in January, Judge Payne, Chairman of the American Red Cross, sent a letter to the chapters asking them to continue through the year the appeal for members in consideration of the magnitude of relief tasks in which the Red Cross is engaged.

"The response has been astonishing", states the director of the Roll Call. "Many small communities are reporting memberships larger than any since the World War. Many of our chapters in coal-mining districts have gone over their goals. A small village in Virginia, which last year had 240 persons enrolled in the Red Cross, now has about 1,500".

More Cotton for Destitute The President of the United States has signed a bill granting an additional allotment of 340,000 bales of cotton to the 500,000 authorized last July. With this, the American Red Cross is intending to supply bedding for the needy in the form of cotton blankets and quilts. Early purchase and distribution will also be made of 18,000,000 articles of underwear.

Thus far, the Red Cross has distributed 59,489,328 yards of cotton cloth and 28,000,000 ready-made garments to 4,709,075 families. It is estimated that the administrative costs to the Society of cotton and wheat distribution will amount to $535,000.

An example of the spontaneous co-operation extended throughout the United States to the cotton production programme of the Red Cross is reported by a chapter in Illinois. The chapter took to a local factory, for cutting, material received from the Red Cross for making into shirts for the needy. The factory returned the material in the form of finished shirts. The entire service, including the time of employees, was donated. This is cited by national headquarters as typical.

Quick Relief in the Californian Earthquake The relief organization of the American Red Cross was put to a severe test by the earthquake shock which struck Southern California on March 10th. The death roll totalled over 120 and some 5,000 suffered injuries.

Relief measures were undertaken without delay by the local authorities and the Red Cross at Long Beach, Los Angeles and the other towns affected. A Red Cross director flew from San Francisco and ordered large quantities of foodstuffs to be brought to Long Beach by lorry. With the aid of the military authorities he set up field kitchens in the afflicted area.

Many houses had been destroyed by the violence of the tremors so that large numbers of people found themselves without adequate shelter. The Red Cross despatched from factories in a dozen States several hundred thousand garments and blankets, and mobilized at Long Beach and Los Angeles all available doctors and nurses.

Red Cross Headquarters in Washington gave orders to mobilize all its forces to cope with the emergency. Medical and hospital supplies were rushed to the area by aeroplane, while food was sent by Red Cross branches in the neighbourhood.

On learning of the disaster, the League of Red Cross Societies and the International Red Cross Committee immediately cabled to the American Red Cross offering assistance if needed.

YUGOSLAVIA

A Growing Society In its Bulletin for January-February 1933, the Yugoslav Red Cross urges the public to help forward the work of the Society, either by enrolling as members or by contributing towards its funds. In support of this appeal, it points out that, since 1921, it has expended on relief projects within the Kingdom a sum of 39½ millions of dinars, while its donations to victims of disaster in other countries have amounted to six million dinars.

A scheme is under way for the establishment, at the head offices of each of the regional committees, of a medical supply depôt. A motor-ambulance service is also to be organized. The current year's programme of activity provides for the training of personnel to man the depôts and ambulances.

THE PRAGUE CONFERENCE

By Dr. Alice MASARYKOVA,

President of the Czechoslovak Red Cross

We in Czechoslovakia, are looking forward to the regional conference that is to meet here in Prague on April 12th with interest and lively expectations.

The heavy snow mantle of today will vanish beneath the warm rays of the Easter sun and what the ever-changing days of April will bring —whether new snow flakes, rain or sunshine— remains to be seen. But we feel with sureness that all of you who are coming to take part in our conference are coming in a true Easter spirit of mutual helpfulness and co-operation. In this sense, we are certain you will find in Prague the same spirit to welcome you.

Six of our sister Societies in Central Europe (viz., those of Austria, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland) have definitely promised to send representatives, and seven others (the Belgian, Italian, Japanese, Norwegian, Roumanian, Spanish and Yugoslav Societies) are to take part in an advisory capacity. The International Red Cross Committee, to our great satisfaction, has announced its intention of sending two experts.

DR. MASARYKOVA

If a conference of this kind is to be truly effective, it must be the culmination of long months of ripe and methodical preparation. I am happy to say that, from first to last, the Secretariat of the League of Red Cross Societies has shown the widest comprehension of our aims and problems and that the plans have been worked out in the most cordial spirit of co-operation.

The topics of debate, viz., the activities of local Red Cross committees and nursing, were decided upon nearly two years ago. Since then, we have been kept in close touch with the activities of other Societies in these fields, thanks to periodical visits from members of the League Secretariat.

Our technical preparations for the Conference have been watched over with an expert eye by Dr. Sand and Mlle. Lefebvre, both of whom have compiled masterly reports on local chapter organization and nursing respectively for the guidance of the delegates.

These months of preparation have been of great use to us and we have no doubt that the labours of the Conference will be no less instructive, both for us here in Czechoslovakia and for our sister Societies in other lands, our desire being to serve next year's International Conference in Tokyo by presenting it with a clear statement of what has been achieved in Prague.

And now for the actual work of the Conference.

The *first day* will be devoted to the problem of nursing.

After many years of experience, it is now everywhere acknowledged that a capable and noble-minded nurse is a blessing not only to the patient but to his environment as well. What are we doing for our nurses? What are the conditions under which a Red Cross nurse live and works? What is the status of the nurse in our hospitals and our homes? How can we train auxiliary nurses for emergency needs in such wise as to make them useful to themselves, their families and their neighbours? What are the Red Cross statutes governing nurses?

To all these questions, we are hoping the Conference will provide an answer.

The *second day* will be given over to discussion of the programme, organization and finances of local Red Cross committees.

In reading over Dr. Sand's report, we find that the activities of the Red Cross Societies are very varied. Is there any Red Cross work common to all? A certain nucleus of Red Cross work necessary to every local chapter? If so, what? Perhaps the common ravages of fire and flood urge every local chapter to be prepared in case of such emergency.

The successful membership campaigns of local chapters will be studied from the point of view of their programme, organization and budget. We will also consider how to bring up Juniors as future members of the Red Cross chapters.

The possibilities of these two subjects are infinite, but, as we have only two days in which to deal with them, it has seemed to us wise to

select only the more important aspects and discuss them thoroughly rather than to touch superficially upon them all.

Good co-operation between voluntary workers and the paid staff is of the greatest importance to each Red Cross. That is why we suggested that each national Society should be represented by one voluntary worker and one trained employee, or preferably two of each type.

Only when the voluntary worker is willing to learn from the trained personnel and, vice versa, when the trained personnel is willing to support the voluntary worker, can the results be perfect.

At our conference, we will leave the world of competition behind us and live in the harmony of co-operation. We all wish to share with one another experiences which have proved especially useful and which promise success.

How the Czechoslovak Red Cross is working towards peace, the delegates will have the occasion to witness for themselves, for the annual ''Red Cross Truce ''will be proclaimed from the Parliament House in Prague immediately after the close of the Conference. It is our fervent hope that all our friends will honour us with their presence at this ceremony.

May the atmosphere of the conference spread over all our countries!

THE MAN IN THE PADDY-FIELD

ABOUT half the population of the world lives in the area which is bounded north and south by the Arctic and Indian Oceans, and east and west by the Urals and the Pacific. This Asiatic fifty per cent of mankind subsists on a standard of living so low that the significance of the figures by which it must be represented can with difficulty be appreciated by a western mind. The writer of this article was recently assured that a Javanese family can live ''well'' on fifty cents (Dutch) a day— G$ 6, or 150 French francs a month; in China, a recent investigator estimated that the *average* family income of a Chinese peasant is about thirteen Mexican dollars a Year—65 francs, approximately two dollars and sixty cents American!

Paradoxically enough, it is on the other fifty per cent of humanity—on meeting the needs, relieving the suffering, and improving the conditions of the necessitous in Europe and America and Australia—that nine-tenths (at least) of the efforts and of the resources devoted to the promotion and organization of health and social welfare in the world are concentrated to-day. But history explains the paradox easily enough.

The wealth of the Western nations, during the century that followed the Industrial Revolution, multiplied with incredible rapidity. The humanitarian impulse became more articulate, and the humanitarian instinct more active, as the struggle for life became less fierce. Countries and communities and individuals realized that they would like, and found that they could afford, out of the enormous margins created for them by the adoption of mechanical methods, to finance the prevention of avoidable misery and the relief of unavoidable suffering on an unprecedented scale. Even today there is no scrapping of the armaments which serve to give the individual members of western communities relative security against disaster and disease. His right to such protection is now a recognized, vested right.

Not so in Asia. In the Asiatic countries there has been (with one notable exception: Japan) no Industrial Revolution, and consequently no startling increase in general production, no general overflow of wealth providing abundant resources for social betterment. The Asiatic has continued to live by the sweat of his brow, and not by the oil of his machine; he has remained, taken in the mass, the Man in the Paddy-field, and not the Man in the Street. He lives by his labours by day in his field, and by night in his hut, in the village of his birth —and in one or the other he dies—without benefit of medical care.

To those who have no first-hand knowledge of the Far East, this may look like exaggeration. But a recent survey in the Philippine Islands concluded that 97 per cent of the people in the country died without medical attention of any kind, and a Health Officer in the Netherlands East Indies told the present writer that he thought the figure for Java might be even higher. In China the number of trained physicians practising in the whole country must be virtually negligible. (By way of contrast, 200 out of 400 villages in a ''poor'' province in Japan have resident physicians).

It must be remembered, moreover, that the problem is growing in volume every year. Eastern populations multiply rapidly—the thirty millions of Java will be sixty millions, it is estimated, in less than 30 years from now. The same ground will have to support two families

instead of one in the next generation. It is impossible not to wonder how the margin which was too narrow to provide a doctor today is to be stretched so as to provide food and clothing for the children of tomorrow.

In the meantime—leaving to statesmen and economists the solution of that portentous problem in world-readjustment—those who have assumed responsibility for guiding the destinies of the Red Cross as a world movement are showing themselves increasingly alive to the needs of the Man in the Paddy-field. It is being borne in upon them that the primitive social organization of the communities of which he is the typical representative presents not gaps, but chasms to be filled; and that, unless or until concerted attempts are made to fill them, the men in the paddy-fields are more completely at the mercy of disease and disaster than the most grievously handicapped elements in western societies. And the Red Cross, which to its infinite honour knows no racial, religious or political barriers, must naturally aspire to give service where it is most needed and to relieve suffering where it is most grievous.

This does not mean, of course, that the Red Cross should so blind itself to realities as to seek to divert the stream of western philanthropy in order to provide resources to meet the needs of the man in the Oriental paddy-field. But it does mean that the small group of Oriental Red Cross Societies need, and are entitled to expect, all the international co-operation they can be given in building up national organizations which can raise resources and develope activities to meet those needs. In one Oriental country—Japan, where the factory and the paddy-field stand side by side—the leaders of the Red Cross movement have solved that problem for themselves, with results which may serve as an example not to other Asiatic Societies only, but to Red Cross Societies all over the world. Those of the delegates to next year's International Red Cross Conference who take the trouble to look closely at the Society whose guests they will be at Tokyo will see much to admire, and perhaps much to imitate. But in this respect Japan as yet stands alone in Asia. In Siam in evolution towards democracy, and in the Philippines in evolution towards independence, the development of the Red Cross has gone a long way towards the same ideal, but it has yet to be seen how successfully the Red Cross organizations in these countries will be able to adapt themselves to new conditions. In India and in the Dutch East Indies the work done with the resources available is undeniably impressive; but the executive officers of these Societies would be the first to admit that they are unable, without developing a vastly more effective organization, to shoulder one-tenth of their potential responsibilities. And in the Chinese chaos, amid which the officers of the Red Cross Society keep the Red Cross flag bravely flying over their institutions in Shanghai, by dint of admirable tenacity and devotion—in China the need is greatest of all.

It is difficult to realize, from reports and statistics, just how remarkable is the achievement represented by the record of these half-dozen national societies. It is most impressive, of course, in Japan, where the Red Cross membership runs into millions—one province, Fukuoka, can boast an enrolment of some 90% of the population; where a single Red Cross hospital—one of many—modern to the last degree and as yet incomplete, accommodates (at Osaka) as many as 800 patients, and where the Juniors of a single chapter (at Kyoto) publish their own magazine. The peacetime programme of the Japanese Red Cross—especially in its health aspect—shows an elasticity of conception and a competence in execution which can with difficulty be parallelled elsewhere.

But, if the volume and the quality of the Red Cross work in Japan places it almost in a class apart, the spirit which animates the leaders and supporters of the movement in the other countries of the Far East is the same. The nurses and dental workers of the Red Cross in the Philippines, the hospitals of the Red Cross Society of China in Shanghai, the poly-clinics of the Netherlands East Indies Society in Batavia, may not be able to reach as large a percentage of the enormous populations which swarm on their territories; but they represent the same altruistic spirit, the same devotion on the part of Red Cross workers, the same sacrifice from the supporters whose contribution makes the work possible. Best of all, they represent a similar contribution to the succour of the helpless.

Of the inspiration which the Oriental Societies have received from the League there can be no doubt; if any ever existed, it was set at rest by the regional Conferences held at Bangkok in 1922 and in Tokyo in 1926. Of the enthusiasm with which they have welcomed the League's suggestions and turned them to good use, their work shows abundant evidence. But the League must do more than continue to be a source of inspiration and suggestions for these Societies. It must, because their potential responsibilities are so heavy, afford them direct cooperation in their efforts to broaden their shoulders to the burden. We shall have gone far towards realizing the ideal of human solidarity for which the Red Cross stands if we can effectively contribute to enable the Oriental Societies to build themselves up into organizations capable of improving the lot of the most defenceless and inarticulate of human sufferers—the Man in the Paddy-field.

L. E. DE GIELGUD.

NURSING AS A RED CROSS RESPONSIBILITY

THE responsibilities of the Red Cross in the field of nursing were summed up by the XIVth International Red Cross Conference as ''the desire of national Societies to provide their respective countries with a body of trained nurses and voluntary aids sufficient to meet the needs of war and to assure the functioning of the various peace-time services''. To achieve this, the Conference expressed the wish that Red Cross Societies should confide to their Nursing Divisions, under the direction of their respective Central Committees:

a) the enrolment of trained nurses;
b) the enrolment and training of voluntary aids.

A report has been prepared as a basis for discussion at the Prague Conference which gives a general survey of the work of each of the participating societies in the nursing sphere. Points of common interest will be found in the study of the present position, and in the examination of the problems and resources of each country. Discussion of these points will make it possible to outline appropriate practical measures so that the Societies may be ready, in case of need, to enrol an adequate contingent of trained nurses and voluntary aids.

Of course the rôle and activities of the different national Societies vary in accordance with the status of nurses in the different countries and with varying local conditions. One capital fact, however, stands out from all the surveys made: the Red Cross has everywhere exercised a considerable influence on the development of the nursing profession and, owing to its prestige and its close cooperation with the Government authorities, the Red Cross is everywhere in a position to render valuable service in helping forward the cause of nursing.

In *Germany* to-day the nursing organizations are under the control of the Medical Division of the Ministry of Social Welfare, which decides whether or not they shall be recognized among the public health and emergency services. Such recognition involves the obligation for each of them to place 50 per cent of its effectives at the disposal of these services in case of need.

The closest relations exist between the public authorities and the Association of Red Cross *Mutterhäuser*. The President of the Association is also a member of the National Council of Public Health. The formation of the Baden women's committee in 1859 marks the beginning of the professional training of Red Cross nurses. Since care of the sick has become a part of the permanent Red Cross programme, numerous *Mutterhäuser* have been opened.

In 1932 the Association comprised 57 *Mutterhäuser*; it has statutes and a legal entity of its own; it constitutes the nursing section under the German Red Cross Central Committee.

The institution of a State diploma in Germany goes back to 1906. When the conditions then laid down were modified by the Prussian decree of July 19th 1921, the compulsory minimum programme of two years' study was based on the curricula prepared by the Red Cross National Women's Union and the Prussian Red Cross Committee.

The German Red Cross trains all its certificated nurses in the *Mutterhäuser*. Il also trains specialized nurses and organizes complementary courses, advanced courses, and post-graduate courses.

The Red Cross long ago recognized the need of training matrons for hospitals and *Mutterhäuser*, and a training college for head nurses was opened in 1902. Since 1926, the college has been in Berlin, and is known as the *Wernerschule*. It provides a one-year course, conducted in co-operation with the Academy for Women's Social and Educational Work. The Red Cross also gives housewifery courses of from six to twelve months for intending probationers.

Each of the German *Mutterhäuser* has the character of a family group founded on common ethical, professional and economic principles, and is composed of a number of nurses under a general director.

Since 1908, the Reich has granted old age pensions to nurses and, since 1911, they have been included with employees and civil servants for purposes of sickness insurance. The Red Cross has also constituted a nurses' relief fund for those who are ill or disabled and, in 1921, it formed a Red Cross nurses' insurance fund to which many groups belong.

The *Mutterhäuser* Association owns a number of holiday and rest homes in different parts of the country.

The 57 *Mutterhäuser* of the German Red Cross have a total of 9,764 members (including probationers). Over 8,000 of them are serving in hospitals and institutions and about 600 are working as district or public health nurses.

The nursing profession in Germany is too strongly entrenched for the training of voluntary aids to be open to any objections, and the German Red Cross trains fairly large numbers of such aids for various kinds of work. The *Mutterhäuser* train voluntary aids whose services are requisitioned by the public health and medical services.

The Women's Committees of the German Red Cross organize courses of varying duration for the training of voluntary aids: ''samaritans'', first and second class voluntary aids (*Helferinnen* and *Nothelferinnen*).

With the exception of the samaritans, they

must hold themselves at the disposal of the public health and medical services and keep their names on the registers on the High Commissioner for voluntary nurses.

The nursing section at Red Cross headquarters keeps an index with a personal record of each of its nurses. Each *Mutterhaus* does the same for each of its nurses and voluntary aids. The local Red Cross committees keep lists of voluntary aids.

In *Austria* it is the Ministry of Social Welfare which is responsible for supervising nursing training. Every school must receive its approval and conform to the principles laid down in the decree of June 25, 1914, governing both the organization of the State examination and that of the training, which has been extended from two to three years.

The Austrian Red Cross nursing school dates from 1913. It is reckoned as one of the best in the country and the entries are excellent. It has trained about 500 nurses but has not attempted to enrol certificated nurses as the decree of June 1914 laid down that such nurses must hold themselves at the disposal of the Government health and medical authorities in case of war or epidemics. Since 1919, however, this undertaking has no longer been required.

In *Estonia* nurses come under the health and social service administration (Ministry of Education and Social Welfare); they must be registered before they are allowed to practise their profession. The Estonian Nurses' Association has organized a school in connexion with the university clinics at Tartu; the three year curriculum, which trains hospital nurses, public health nurses and midwives, has been approved by the Government which subsidizes the school. The final examinations confer the right to a diploma recognized by the State. The Red Cross headquarters has a nursing section responsible for the enrolment of nurses and voluntary aids. Nurses thus enrolled become members of the Red Cross Nurses' Association, which helps them when they are sick or aged and offers them the hospitality of its club. At the military hospital at Tallinn the Red Cross trains voluntary aids as "war nurses".

In *Hungary* the State Health Institute, which is under the Ministry of Social Welfare, is the official body responsible for everything connected with nursing. Until 1918 the Red Cross had the monopoly of nursing training. Its two schools rank among the six best in the country whose diplomas are recognized by the Government. Nurses trained in these schools are much sought after and some of them hold such important posts as counsellor to the State Health Institute, director of the Institute's nursing school, heads of industrial and rural district public health nursing services. In 1932 the Hungarian Red Cross nursing service, which had adopted the German *Mutterhaus* system, comprised 164 trained nurses. The Hungarian Red Cross is now busy reorganizing the nurse's enrolment service and the training of voluntary aids.

In *Latvia* the training of nurses and kindred questions are the province of the Health Bureau of the Ministry of Social Welfare. In 1931 the State officially adopted a minimum programme of two years' training. The Latvian Red Cross is entrusted with the duties which might be expected to fall to a nursing section at the Ministry, such as the registration of nurses throughout the country. On January 1st of this year, 703 nurses were registered, 533 of whom were enrolled at the Red Cross as members of the Red Cross Nurses' Association (found ed in 1922). The Association acts as the nursing section at Red Cross headquarters. It has brought about great improvements both in the professional standards of nurses and in their working and living conditions. The two Red Cross schools, placed under the supervision of the department of training and secondary schools (Ministry of Public Education) have a three year curriculum and train the majority of nurses of the country. The Association organizes advanced and specialized courses, and lectures for trained nurses. It places a library at their disposal and publishes a professional review. Thanks to Red Cross initiative, nurses in Latvia are adequately paid and, in case of sickness or old age, those who are in the service of recognized hospitals or institutions, provided they are registered by the Red Cross, enjoy the considerable advantage of being reckoned as civil servants under the pensions law of July 16th. 1931. The Latvian Red Cross Nurses' Association offers hospitality to its members at the sea-side rest house at Asari, and at the nurses' hostel recently purchased for them by the Red Cross at Riga. On January 1st, 1933, the Latvian Red Cross had 226 nurses, probationers and midwives in its service. These included 58 nurses and 11 midwives attached to its fifty rural health and child welfare centres. These centres are situated at appropriate points all over the country, but none of them is more than 250 kilometres distant from the capital. It is thus possible to supervise them from Red Cross headquarters, where the public health nurses have their office.

There are no nursing schools in *Lithuania.* The Public Health Bureau of the Ministry of the Interior is responsible for the registration of nurses. Since 1928, the only nurses eligible for State registration have been those holding the Red Cross training certificate. All must be prepared to answer calls on their services in time of public need. Since its foundation in 1920, the Lithuanian Red Cross has been organizing regular nursing courses. At

the outset, when the need for nurses was particularly urgent, only six months' training was given, but since 1923, when conditions became more normal, the training period has been extended to two years.

A national Nurses' Association has been in existence since 1922 and now has a membership of approximately 100, or half the total number of registered nurses in the country. Its primary object is to improve the economic, legal and educational status of its members.

In *Poland*, a Nursing Bureau was constituted in 1927 in the Health Service of the Ministry of Social Welfare. The directress is a trained nurse and she is responsible for the inspection of nursing schools, which are accorded Government recognition only when favourably reported on by her. The nurse holding this responsible position attends the State examinations, which were instituted in 1923; superintends the public health nursing services; maintains an information bureau and helps in the drafting of laws relating to nurses. She works in close collaboration with the National Council of Professional Nurses (affiliated to the International Council of Nurses in 1925) and with the nursing division of the Polish Red Cross.

The nursing division at Polish Red Cross headquarters, with the help of an advisory committee, has assumed responsibility for raising the standard of nursing in Poland, constituting and supervising the active nursing corps of the Red Cross, and enrolling active and reserve nurses and voluntary aids. Of the five schools in Poland which, during the last few years, have turned out a strong, efficient corps of trained nurses, two are Polish Red Cross schools. The Polish Red Cross nursing division also arranges post-graduate and specialized courses for certificated nurses; opens attractive and comfortable clubs where Red Cross nurses can be accommodated at moderate terms when working, or even lodged free of charge if they are disabled or too old to be self-supporting. For Red Cross nurses who are in ill-health, there is the sanatorium in the mountains at Zakopane.

At the beginning of this year, the Polish Red Cross had 548 nurses in active service, 33 per cent of whom were holders of the Government diploma, i.e. nearly 200 out of the total number of 698 State certificated nurses registered in the country. A certain number of these women are engaged in public health nursing and the Red Cross is now working out plans for the extension of rural hygiene. The training of voluntary aids is the responsibility of the regional committees of the Red Cross, in collaboration with the central committee.

In *Czechoslovakia*, the official body which accords recognition to schools of nursing is a department attached to the Ministry of Public Health and Physical Education. The nursing schools, five of which were established between 1916 and 1931, have adopted the Government curriculum as defined by the decree of June 25th, 1924. The oldest and most important, the Government school in Prague, was administered from 1920 until 1932 by the Czechoslovak Red Cross which, in view of the pressing need for qualified nurses, has, since its inception, concentrated on the training of nurses. The Czechoslovak National Association of Certificated Nurses was constituted in 1930 with a membership of 312. It works in close contact with the Red Cross and is striving to raise the social and economic standards of the nursing profession with a view to improving hospital services and contributing towards the development of public health.

At the Red Cross headquarters, the nursing division forms one of the nine sections of the Public Health Bureau. It is directed by a certificated nurse in conjunction with an advisory committee, some or all of whose members meet at least six times a year. The division, in agreement with the National Nurses' Association, is endeavouring to bring about the establishment of professional schools attached to the Universities of Brno and Bratislava, to secure the State registration of nurses and the amendment of ministerial decrees relating to nurses, and to draft, in collaboration with the mobilization section, regulations governing the enrolment of volunteer staff in case of need.

The directress of the Red Cross nursing service is ably seconded in her work by the heads of the regional nursing sections. The Red Cross branches in Moravia, Slovakia and Ruthenia each maintain a nursing section directed by a certificated nurse, who is responsible for the nursing activities of the branch, for the supervision of the public health centres, for the district nursing service and for the enrolment and training of voluntary aids. She gives close supervision to the work, and makes monthly and annual reports to Red Cross headquarters.

To meet the growing needs of its programme, the Czechoslovak Red Cross has organized special courses for certificated nurses, with a view to forming an efficient corps of public health nurses and training sister tutors for the instruction of voluntary aids. Besides the five certificated nurses in charge of the nursing divisions at headquarters and in the regional branches, the Red Cross employs forty others as visiting nurses attached to the district nursing services in the principal towns of the republic and to the public health clinics, which are also served by forty social workers.

Special courses for voluntary aids have been organized in Bohemia and Slovakia only since 1932. Theoretical and practical instruction is given by nurses specially trained for this purpose. By the end of the year, 487 certificated nurses and forty voluntary aids had been regis-

tered by the Red Cross enrolment service.

It is generally realized that nursing has progressed enormously during the last fifteen years, from every point of view. The training of nurses, in particular, has been given much thought and effort in many countries. The Committee on Education of the International Council of Nurses has drawn up a model curriculum to serve as a guide "for placing nursing service and nursing education on a full professional basis and for producing in our schools not only *trained* nurses but *educated* nurses". How far this aim has been achieved in the majority of countries is still a matter for conjecture but on one principle, at least, there is general agreement — the principle of "broadening the conception of nursing service to include the nursing care of the whole patient, mind as well as body—the prevention of sickness as well as the bedside care of the sick—and health service to families and communities as well as to individuals".

Much still remains to be done if the nursing profession is to be elevated to the position which it is entitled to occupy and which it is its duty to claim. The Red Cross Societies taking part in the Prague Conference are fully aware of this. They are all endeavouring to constitute efficient nursing corps by providing certificated nurses with facilities for improving their knowledge and seeing for themselves what is being done in other countries in the direction of nursing. These Societies, at their meeting in Prague, will study ways of attracting educated women to the hospital and clinic in sufficient numbers to ensure that the care of the sick and the dissemination of health propaganda shall be carried out with the maximum of efficiency. All the questions to be discussed concern problems which can be definitely brought near solution through the influence of the Red Cross: the organization of nursing services, Red Cross collaboration with public authorities in defining the status of nurses, the living and working conditions of nurses, district and rural nursing services, and the enrolment of nurses and voluntary aids.

J. LEFEBVRE.

HOW TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION

SUGGESTIONS FOR JUNIORS

By George HÉBERT

It has been evident for some years to educators and enlightened people generally throughout the world that sport, as it is often practised, has not produced the results expected of it, either physically or morally. Of course, sport in itself is not harmful, but its influence is good or bad, according to the manner of its organization and indulgence.

Practised injudiciously, sport may involve very real dangers of a physical, moral and social character. Physical, when insufficient account is taken of the athlete's strength, thus straining the organism; social, when it is considered solely from the commercial angle, as a means of making money through the organization of public displays; moral, when it transforms a good athlete into a public idol and fosters exaggerated individualism, whereas the true aim of sport should be to strengthen its adepts and aid them in becoming healthy and useful members of the community.

Great care must therefore be exercised not to lose sight of this primary aim and to give sport the firm moral organization which it requires if it is not to become diverted into dangerous channels.

The Junior Red Cross members seem to be particularly fitted to understand the part that their movement can play in keeping intact the moral element of all true sport.

If I were asked how to begin this work of regeneration, I would reply that the first and most important consideration would be to give all young people a complete physical training. Later on, when they are older, a certain number would naturally display the superior aptitude which would qualify them to take part in competitive sports and games if they wished, but the essential aims will always be:

To spread an educational doctrine of a high order, concerned not only with complete physical development, but which would produce active, energetic men healthy in body and mind and capable of entertaining altruistic feelings.

To encourage the development of the allround athlete, capable of practising all forms of exercise, and to adopt for this purpose a set of tests which will include all the most important elements for the building up of physical strength, stamina, actual muscular strength, speed, skill.

We wish to make men, not champions. We wish to collaborate in an educational task, not to produce spectacular displays.

Before going any further, it seems essential to give an exact definition of what we mean by "physical education".

The human being is not a simple organism; it is endowed with a heart and a brain. In organizing physical education, this complexity must be continually borne in mind; the close relation between mind and matter must never be lost sight of or the result will be the creation of merely physical types. Without the controlling power of will, the spur of energy and the promptings of a high ideal, physical strength is a poor thing indeed. It is dangerous to separate the three main lines of education: physical training, character training, ethical and moral training.

We will therefore define physical training in the following terms:

A methodical, progressive and continuous process, from childhood to maturity, the object of which is to produce complete physical development; to increase moral stamina; to cultivate ability in all kinds of natural and useful exercises (walking, running, jumping, climbing, lifting, throwing, swimming, self-defence); to develop energy and other good, character-building qualities; and finally to subordinate the resulting product, physical development and personal character, to a dominant moral ideal—altruism.

It will be seen from this definition how the basis of discussion in regard to physical education has broadened. It is no longer a question of practising some form of sport in desultory fashion in leisure hours, or of tiresome elementary physical exercises which are of little or no practical value. Our aim is a vast synthesis applicable over a long period, incorporating:

a) a gymnastic system ensuring all-round physical development.

b) a mode of life tending to build up the resistance of the organs, a necessity for good health.

c) Games and sports in moderation side by side with moral education and character training, thus constituting a means of education rather than, as at present, an end in itself.

d) Moral training, directed towards the realization of high ideals.

Observe how logical and simple is this conception of physical education; compare it with the accepted idea of intellectual education. No one would dream of saying that a child who is learning arithmetic, for instance, is acquiring his intellectual education, for this is made up of a variety of subjects: history, geography, science, etc. The same is true of physical education. A branch of sport, however attractive, cannot by itself produce complete development; a form of gymnastics, perfect as it may be, does not teach the lessons of hygiene necessary to health, and so on. But these essential factors: physical exercise, hygiene, the development of initiative, and physical and moral stamina, do produce the all-round, balanced person, physically and morally sound and prepared to put into practice the motto: "Be strong in order to be useful".

It is to this absorbing educative task that we would like to see the national Junior Red Cross Sections apply their efforts. They will find in it not only a means of interesting and helping children of school age, but of affording young people leaving school an occupation and an ideal in keeping with the spirit of the Red Cross.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Third International Hospital Congress

The Third International Hospital Congress will meet at Knocke-sur-Mer (Belgium) from June 28th to July 3rd, 1933.

The reports of the ten permanent study commissions set up by the International Hospital Association will be reproduced in the April issue of NOSOKOMEION. The recommendations of these reports, founded on the experience of the world's foremost technicians, will enable the Congress to lay down principles which should ultimately lead to the improvement and progress of hospitals in every country.

The reports deal with: the construction, equipment and technical installation of hospitals; administration and management; accountancy; legislation and administrative policy; care of the sick; nutrition; personnel; statistics and nomenclature; relations of the hospital with the outside world.

The fee for attendance at the Congress is two dollars, while a subscription of five dollars entitles one to receive all the documents issued in connexion with the meeting and to share all the advantages and privileges enjoyed by members of the International Hospital Association. Adhesions should be addressed to the Belgian Hospital Association, 80 rue de Livourne, Brussels.

Our May number will contain an article on the Congress by Dr. René Sand, Technical Counsellor to the League of Red Cross Societies and President of the International Hospital Association.

Army Medical Congress

The VIIth International Congress of Army Medical and Pharmaceutical Services will be held in Madrid from May 29th to June 4th next.

In addition to the current work of the congress, visits and demonstrations will be arranged for the benefit of those taking part.

Refugee Relief

The Assembly of the League of Nations, at its session of February 24th last, appointed Professor Georges Werner, Vice-President of the International Red Cross Committee, as president of the governing body of the Nansen International Office for Refugees in place of Dr. Max Huber, who has resigned.

LEAGUE HEADQUARTERS NOTES

Executive Committee The Executive Committee of the League's Board of Governors has been convened to meet at the offices of the Secretariat in Paris on April 3rd, to consider the following agenda :

1. Minutes of the previous meeting.
2. Report of the Secretary General for the period October 1932-April 1933.
3. Report of Colonel Draudt, Vice-Chairman, on co-operation between the League and the International Red Cross Committee.
4. Report of the Finance Committee; contributions promised for 1933; receipts and expenditure for the period from January 1st to March 31st, 1933.
5. Regional Conference of the Central European Red Cross Societies (Prague).
   Third Pan-American Conference (Rio de Janeiro).
6. Preparation of the XVth International Red Cross Conference.
   Result of the meeting of the Red Cross Permanent Commission.
   Nursing and Junior Red Cross Commissions.
   Board of Governor meeting 1934.
7. Projects for the period from April to October 1933. Activities of the Secretariat.

Mr. de Gielgud's Tour in the Far East Mr. L. E. de Gielgud, Under Secretary-General, returned to Paris on March 8th after an absence of four and a half months, during which he has been occupied with the study of Red Cross organization and activity in the Far East prescribed by the fourth resolution adopted by the Board of Governors at its meeting in Brussels in 1930.

Mr. de Gielgud spent a month as the guest of the Japanese Red Cross Society, which afforded him the most extensive facilities for seeing and studying the different types of work undertaken by the local sections of the Red Cross in nine different localities. Occasion was taken to consider with the headquarters of the Japanese national Society questions connected with the preparatory organization of the XVth International Red Cross Conference.

Since leaving Japan, Mr. de Gielgud has visited the headquarters of the Red Cross Society of China at Shanghai, the Philippines Chapter of the American Red Cross and three of its most important branches, and the Central Committee of the Netherlands East Indies Red Cross at Batavia. In Java, he was also given extensive facilities for seeing the organization and activity in the different provinces of the Government Health Service.

In addition to the opportunities given him in Japan and in the Philippine Islands to confer with Red Cross workers and to address local committees on the development of their activities in peace-time, Mr. de Gielgud was enabled, while in Manila, by the courtesy of the Philippines Chapter of the American Red Cross and Radio-Manila, to give a general talk to radio listeners on the history and development of the work of the League. This talk was translated into Chinese and relayed from Nankin for the benefit of Chinese listeners.

In accordance with the 1930 resolution of the Board of Governors, a full report of the results of this study is in preparation, and will be circulated in due course to the members of the Board. Articles on various phases of Red Cross work in Far Eastern countries will also appear in forthooming numbers of the League's Bulletin.

Pan-American Conference The Brazilian Red Cross has notified the League that, in view of the continuance of the world crisis and of the conditions at present prevailing in the Latin-American countries, it might be preferable to postpone the Third Pan-American Red Cross Conference, which was to have been held at Rio de Janeiro this year, until the return of more normal times.

International Nursing Courses The First Meeting of the Provisional Committee for the Organization of the International Nursing Courses for the Session 1933-34 was held at the headquarters of the British Red Cross in London on March 17th.

Sir Arthur Stanley (Chairman), Mr. Swift and Mrs. Carter represented the League of Red Cross Societies and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Chairman of the Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee of the International Council of Nurses, Miss Musson, Treasurer of the I. C. N., and Miss Lloyd Still represented the I. C. N. informally.

The meeting agreed that Bedford College be asked to continue the Courses, in conjunction with the College of Nursing, during the Session 1933-34.

It was also agreed to ask the House Committee of 15, Manchester Square to continue to advise with regard to the administration for the Session 1933-34. The League of Red Cross Societies has consented to carry out the secretarial work and all arrangements for the organization of the Courses.

Of the fifteen scholarships available, one has been allocated to England, one to Scotland and one to the British Dominions. Red Cross Societies and National Nurses' Associations wishing to present candidates for the remaining scholarships are asked to send their applications to the League of Red Cross Societies immediately.

Missions *Mr. Ernest J. Swift*, Secretary-General, and *Mrs. Carter*, Director of the Nursing Division, went to London on March 16th to attend the first meeting of the Organization Committee of the International Courses at Bedford College (1933-34 session). They afterwards visited the headquarters of the British Red Cross Society to discuss questions of general interest.

Dr. Sand, Technical Counsellor, spent several days in Brussels for the purpose of assisting the Health Section of the League of Nations in organizing an investigation into the health of families of unemployed.

Contributions to League Budget The following contributions towards the administrative expenses of the League have been received during the past month:

Danzig Red Cross.	$20.00.
Guatemalan Red Cross.	1,000 French francs
South African Red Cross. . . .	£20.0.0. (for 1932).
Spanish Red Cross	25,000 Pesetas.
Swedish Red Cross.	2,000 Swedish Kr.

BOOK REVIEWS

La Belgique Sociale *(Social Service in Belgium)*, by Dr. René Sand. Preface by Ernest Mahaim. 1933. Anc. Ets. J. Lebègue and Cie, 36, rue Neuve, Bruxelles. Pp. 196.

This book gives a masterly summary of all that Belgium is doing in the field of public health and social welfare. Statistics abound from one end of the book to the other, but they do not, as is much too often the case, impress and frighten rather than instruct the reader. Dr. Sand handles them so adroitly that they blend with the arguments in the text in a harmonious and cogent thesis.

In his preface, Professor Ernest Mahaim draws attention to some of the most salient features of this work and points out how essential it is for a nation to be endowed with the health conscience. "I perceive, through the one hundred and ninety pages of this book, its fundamental idea. It is to create in our leaders and in the nation at large this medico-social spirit which has already penetrated into so many other countries".

The first chapter deals with the population of Belgium and the conditions under which it lives. In the second chapter the author traces the development of public health and social welfare in his country since 1830. The third chapter concerns the machinery of public health, and an account is given of the campaigns against slums, food adulteration, infectious diseases, mental diseases, alcohol, drugs of addiction, cancer, etc. In the fourth chapter certain legislative measures, as far as they affect the worker in his occupations, are discussed, together with occupational accidents and diseases, old age and sickness insurance, unemployment, etc. In the fifth chapter the author deals with the organization of public and private assistance, child welfare, the penal system and the aid the community can bring to the least fortunate of its members such as paupers and tramps. In the last chapter the author analyses the factors responsible for the increase of the community's budget for public health and social welfare. Here he traces in broad lines the reforms he considers necessary.

A survey of this kind, if it is to be true to life, cannot be flattering only. Indeed, the author brings his lesson home to the reader as much by the warning of bad examples as by the incentive of undertakings almost approaching the ideal. It has been said that the stage of civilization any country has reached can be judged by its available statistics. Belgium is fortunate in this respect that the statistical information concerning it is sufficiently complete for a reformer like the author to show quite clearly what has been done and what still needs to be done. This book should prove an invaluable standard by which social workers other than Belgians may judge the level of civilization in their own countries. Were this the main, or indeed the only, object of the book, it would yet more than have justified its publication. But the author's constructive tendencies make themselves felt from beginning to end. He does not simply note the existence of such and such achievements and of sins of omission and commission with the air of a detached observer who feels he has nothing to do but act the part of the Recording Angel. Almost every statement and record of fact leads up to what is really the central theme of this book,—a sweeping plan of reform.

The two worst evils of the present system are lack of supervision of local activities by a central body and lack of centralization at the head of affairs. These two faults are to be found in some degree in practically every country, and it is thus this book, with its bold solutions, is of great international value. With regard to the first evil, it is pointed out that the time has passed when the inhabitants of a small community can be expected to administer the highly technical machinery of modern life with the aid of local forces alone. How can such a small community with its limited resources and its untrained representatives, engaged in earning their daily bread, deal effectively with all the problems of public health and social welfare? As for the second evil, the overlapping at the head in Belgium is such that fifteen different services compete with one another in working for the public good.

Dr. Sand's remedy for all this is suggestive of Columbus' egg. His remedy for the first problem is centralization of authority, and for the second, unification of authority. Are his schemes revolutionary, visionary, utopian? These epithets may, perhaps, occur to the casual reader who begins his study of the book with the last chapter, which is headed "Conclusions". But if he reads the book from start to finish, he will find how patiently and scientifically the author has examined every detail of the mechanism before setting forth his scheme for repairing it. Dr. Sand is no iconoclast and, with his knowledge, acquired in the course of his study visits as a Red Cross worker to most of the civilized countries of the world, he does not expect a new machine suddenly to appear as the result of a violent disruption of the original. On the contrary, he foresees that the reforms he has advocated will come gradually. When they are complete, the historically-minded observer will smile at the notion that their advocate could ever have been accused of being a visionary.

THE LEAGUE
OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES

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Secretary: Mr. Ernest J. SWIFT, Secretary-General of the League of Red Cross Societies.

Le Gérant : B. de Rougé.

IMP. UNION, 13, RUE MÉCHAIN, PARIS

"League of Red Cross Societies Monthly Bulletin." League of Red Cross Societies Monthly Bulletin, vol. 14, no. 4, Apr. 1933. Global Development and Humanitarian Aid, link.gale.com/apps/doc/OVZKRB495072349/GDHA?u=omni&sid=bookmark-GDHA. Accessed 24 Aug. 2026.